

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

Town of Hamilton,

FOR THE

Year Ending March, 1874.

SALEM, MASS:

GAZETTE STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

1874.

REPORT.

The School Committee for the year ending March, 1874, present the following report:—

Amount raised by taxation at the Town Meeting,	
March, 1873	\$1000 00
Town's proportion of State School Fund, . . .	125 78
Dog licenses for 1873,	55 98
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	\$1181 71

This amount has been expended in payment of teachers, for fuel, and for care of school houses, as follows, viz.:—

FOR NORTH SCHOOL.

Teacher in Summer,	\$ 106 50
Teacher in Winter,	160 00
Fuel and care of house,	28 25

SOUTH SCHOOL.

Teacher in Summer,	120 00
Teacher in Winter,	180 00
Fuel and care of house,	35 50

WEST SCHOOL.

Teacher in Summer,	106 50
Teacher in Winter,	156 00
* Care of house,	4 50

* Bill for fuel not rendered.

EAST SCHOOL.

Teacher in Summer,	-	-	-	-	-	106	50
Teacher in Winter,	-	-	-	-	-	137	50
Fuel and care of house,	-	-	-	-	-	25	50
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							\$1166 75

NORTH SCHOOL.

Summer Term. Miss LYDIA A. DANE, Teacher. Length of term, 4 1-4 months ; wages, \$25 per month ; whole number of scholars, 34 ; average attendance, 26 ; perfect in attendance, Otis Appleton and Alvin Jowder.

Winter Term. BENJ. T. DEERING, Teacher. Length of term, 3 months ; wages \$53.33 per month ; whole number of scholars, 37 ; average attendance, 25 ; perfect in attendance, Washington Hatch and Addie C. Dane.

The summer term, under Miss Dane, was a good deal broken up, by reason of her sickness, and the attendance rather irregular. However, the school made fair progress and a creditable appearance at the final examination.

The winter term, under Mr. Deering, was not so successful as promised at the opening. The attendance was irregular, and several of the older scholars dropped out of its ranks, which of course interfered with its general progress ; but, as if to compensate in part for the drawbacks mentioned, several of the smaller classes have done very well indeed. The class in Geography and that in the " Child's Book of Nature " answered every question with the greatest promptness.

SOUTH SCHOOL.

Summer Term. Miss SOPHIA F. LOVERING, Teacher. Length of term, 4 months ; wages, \$30 per month ; number of scholars, 32 ; average attendance, 25 ; perfect in attendance, Carrie L. Dodge, Margaret Dodge, Addie Dodge, Fannie E. Patch, and Luke Dodge.

Winter Term. A. L. McMILLAN, Teacher. Length of term, 3 months; wages, \$60 per month; number of scholars, 31; average attendance, 26 1-2; perfect in attendance, Lizzie Williams, Fannie E. Patch, and Alden Chandler.

The summer term, by Miss Lovering, was, as usual, a profitable one. The district is fortunate in having had her continued services for a number of years. We would notice the class of older girls in this school, whose recitations and deportment are always excellent. The study of Mental Arithmetic is here more general than in our other schools. We think this study should be encouraged.

The winter school, under Mr. McMillan, was all that could be desired. Having taught here last winter, he was prepared to make immediate and rapid progress with all his classes. A very large number of the parents and friends of the scholars attended the closing examination, and were generally satisfied with what had been done. Mr. McMillan was rather exacting in discipline, still he had the warmest regard of his scholars. It will be seen that the attendance has been tolerably regular, both in summer and winter.

EAST SCHOOL.

Summer Term. Miss S. ANNAH NORRIS, Teacher. Length of term, 4 1-4 months; wages, \$25 per month; whole number of scholars, 26; average attendance, 24 1-2; perfect in attendance, Annie F. Chase, Hattie E. Ingalls, Lucretia M. Knowlton, Idella E. Knowlton, Charles A. Channel, Walter W. Ingalls.

Winter Term. WM. WEEKS MORRILL, Teacher. Length of term, 2 1-2 months; wages, \$55 per month; whole number of scholars, 36; average attendance, 30; present every day, Newell Burnham, E. A. Wright, and J. F. Rowe.

The summer term of this school, under Miss Norris, was successful. We would refer to the large number of writing

books shown us, to the neatness with which they had been kept, and to the progress made in penmanship; also to the very good singing with which we were favored upon examination day. Singing is rather a novelty in our schools. We would recommend the custom, especially in summer, whenever the teachers are qualified to lead the scholars.

In the winter term, under Mr. Morrill, the school seemed to be in its usual good working order, until the ninth week, when measles made their appearance, and nearly three-fourths of the scholars were taken down with the disease. The committee closed the school with no little regret.

The scholars gave, early in the winter, an exhibition at their school house, for the purpose of raising funds, to buy a globe, for the use of the school, and they had been so successful that they were in preparation for another entertainment, to be given at the close of the school, for a similar purpose.

We would also note the fact that the average attendance for nine weeks of this term was 34 out of a whole number of 36. This is very commendable, and shows the great interest taken by parents and scholars. The summer school did still better, having an average of 24 1-2 out of 26.

WEST SCHOOL.

Summer Term. ADDIE H. WILKINS, Teacher. Length of term, 4 1-4 months; wages per month, \$25; whole number of scholars, 19; average attendance, 15; present every day, A. L. Dodge.

Winter Term. EVERETT H. HALE, Teacher. Length of term, 3 1-4 months; wages, \$48 per month; whole number of scholars, 21; average attendance, 14 1-4; perfect in attendance, A. L. Dodge.

The summer school, under Miss Wilkins, probably made as much progress as could reasonably be expected, where the scholars are so young and so few. The Committee were sat-

isfied with what had been done. This school, now the smallest, was formerly one of the largest in town. We hope these seats may again be filled.

The winter school, under Mr. Hale, was very irregularly attended, owing no doubt to the great distance which nearly all the scholars live from school. But at the examination the recitations, without any exception, were very good. The school has been conducted in a quiet and orderly manner.

The condition of the school houses is generally good. There is no great outlay required at present. Blinds have been put on the East School-house, and a new desk furnished for the teacher. The seats in this house need repairing, and probably will soon have to be replaced with a new set.

The South School-house will soon need painting upon the outside. The inside of the house should be painted and whitewashed the present season.

There is a great deal of uncertainty in our present plan of securing male teachers for our winter schools. We never feel quite sure that our schools are to be supplied until the day for opening them. It often happens that a teacher with whom we have bargained, writes us, just before the term is to open, that he has received a much better offer, and cannot teach our school, but will send a friend instead, who will take the school at some price named. We would recommend that applicants for our schools, who live among us, shall be preferred to those from distant places.

There is less difficulty in obtaining female teachers, and probably we shall not often have to go outside the town. We wish our girls would more generally avail themselves of the advantages offered by the Normal School in Salem, and prepare themselves for teachers.

We have introduced, this winter, a new Geography, known as "Our World." This work was designed with special reference to making this usually dry and hard study, interesting

and attractive to the scholar. We have no doubt that the cost of exchange will be more than repaid to the town by the greater interest taken in the study.

The Committee have furnished to each of our schools two copies of a work known as the "Child's Book of Nature." We think it has proved of decided advantage to the younger scholars, who have used it occasionally in place of their regular reading books.

We have also introduced a new History, called "Scott's History of the United States," it being smaller, more concise, cheaper, and better suited to the wants of our schools than that which we have had in use.

Respectfully,

A. H. PATCH,	} Committee.
D. E. SAFFORD,	
G. K. KNOWLTON,	

Hamilton, March 2, 1874.